



Public Works Department • Public Services Division
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PLUMBERS AND SEWER CONTRACTORS:

YOUR ACTIONS CAN PREVENT SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS!

What are Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)?

SSOs discharge untreated or partially treated human and industrial waste, debris and disease-causing organisms from the sanitary sewer onto the ground, and potentially into homes, creeks, rivers, and lakes and the San Francisco Bay.

What are the impacts of SSOs?

SSOs may result in environmental damage, property damage and liability to you and your company. Allowing sewage to discharge to a gutter, storm drain or waterway may subject you to regulatory penalties and require you to reimburse public agencies for cleanup costs.

How can you prevent SSOs?

When clearing plugged sewer laterals:

- ☑ Remove grease blockages and any other debris whenever possible; don't push debris from the lateral to the sewer main.
- ☑ If you can't prevent debris from entering the sewer main when working in our service area, call the **City of Mountain View Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329**, so we can work with you (free of charge) to clean the sewer main and prevent blockages further downstream.
- ☑ Use plenty of water to flush lines.
- ☑ Don't open manholes. Hazardous sewer gases from manholes are odorless, undetectable and can be deadly — Call the City to open manholes. Discharging into a publicly owned manhole requires a permit; to obtain a permit, contact the Public Works Permit Counter at (650) 903-6311.

When constructing sewer laterals:

- ☑ Check your work area. Gravel, backfill material and test plugs can become lodged in the sewer line and cause blockages. Make sure no debris is left in the sewer line before you backfill.
- ☑ Avoid offset joints—offset joints make sewer lines vulnerable to root intrusion and grease accumulation, cause debris hang-ups and make lines harder to clean. Properly bed your joints and don't hammer tap.
- ☑ To obtain information regarding permits or the appropriate construction specifications, please contact the Public Works Permit Counter at (650) 903-6311.

Who Do I Call to Avoid an SSO?

If you require our free assistance to help clear root balls, grease blockages and other debris from a main sewer line to prevent an SSO or need to open a manhole in our service area, please call the **City of Mountain View Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329**.

